



More Big Ox workers are injured from chemicals, Sunday's mishap marks fourth incident for the plant

Emergency crews answer call about two employees facing chemical burns

By Bria Bell | bbell@kcautv.com (<mailto:bbell@kcautv.com>)

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SIOUX CITY, Iowa

It's happened again. For at least the fourth time in recent months, workers are injured in a chemical mishap at the Big Ox Energy plant.

Federal regulators have previously told 9 Investigates they have serious concerns about the safety of the Big Ox plant.

With Sunday afternoon's incident those concerns are likely to grow. Two workers at the plant suffered chemical burns, according to firefighters.

It appears the pair were taken by ambulance to local hospitals, but there's no word on their conditions or the extent of their injuries.

Many details surrounding this latest industrial accident at the plant are unclear.

South Sioux's fire chief and local emergency management officials refused to provide any information to the public about the incident. They have repeatedly been tight-lipped about problems at the Big Ox plant, instead deferring to the company for comment.

Big Ox has also not provided any information about exactly what happened.

Meantime, a federal health and safety official recently told 9 Investigates he is "very concerned" about operations at Big Ox Energy.

Those comments came last month after a hydrogen sulfide gas leak occurred at the plant. That December mishap left a worker hospitalized and led to the evacuation of the facility.

According to federal data provided to 9 Investigates, including Sunday's mishap, there have now been at least four industrial accidents at the plant since October.

The three prior cases all involved the release of hydrogen sulfide gas. It's possible this gas may also be involved in the fourth case that just happened.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is currently looking into all these plant accidents that have injured Big Ox workers.

We have concerns about the number of incidents that have happened at the facility," says Scott Allen, spokesperson for O.S.H.A.

Big Ox gas maintained it's cooperating with O.S.H.A. investigators.

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